

Protecting the safety and security of Americans is, without question, my most important priority as your Representative. After 9/11 we vowed to make our country safer. I believe we must prioritize our national security, ensuring that we have the resources to keep our families safe. I will fight to make sure New York gets the federal funding we need. The fire departments and first responders in our communities work tirelessly to keep us safe, in turn we owe it to them to provide the resources they need to protect us.

I cosponsored and voted for legislation to implement the 9/11 Commission's unfilled recommendations and protect our nation from future acts of terrorism, H.R. 1. H.R. 1 implements the 9/11 Commission's recommendation to allocate homeland security funding based on risk - directing more resources to states facing a higher risk of attack- providing states like New York with more support to get the job done. [Read More](#)

I also voted for the National Security FIRST Act (H.R. 556), which takes the next step after passage of the 9-11 Commission recommendations to improve port security. [Read More](#)

I have also called on my colleagues to boost funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Firefighters (SAFER) program, which award competitive grants to fire departments around the country to help meet equipment, training and staffing needs. I am a proud cosponsor of the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act (H.R. 943), which would provide tax relief for volunteer emergency responders by exempting property tax abatements and other incentives offered to volunteer emergency responders from federal taxation – helping local fire departments recruit and retain first responders. [Read More](#)

Honoring Our Troops and Veterans

During this time of conflict, it is especially important to honor and respect our veterans and troops serving valiantly around the world. I am deeply committed to fulfilling our promise to provide for the unique and variable needs of our nation's veterans and service members. From

\$1.8 billion in additional funding for veterans' health care, to increased oversight of VA hospitals, and a pay raise for military families – I am proud to have joined Republicans and Democrats to pass legislation that will help provide veterans and service members with the care they have earned and deserve. [Read More](#)

I have consistently said that our country needs a plan to ensure the timely redeployment of our troops out of Iraq. The previous Congress failed in their duty to provide oversight and refused to ask the tough questions regarding this mismanaged war.

I support a responsible and realistic strategy for Iraq and bringing our brave troops home as soon as possible. We need a responsible and deliberate plan to change the direction in Iraq without jeopardizing the safety and wellbeing of our soldiers. True victory will be achieved when we bring all of our brave troops home - alive and uninjured.

Keeping Local Communities Safe

As a former District Attorney, I know from experience how important it is for our police officers to have the funding and resources they need to protect us and to protect themselves. I saw time and again how an increase in police presence was directly proportional to reducing crime. I worked side-by-side with police officers throughout Upstate New York to prosecute criminals and make our streets safer. Those officers knew they could count on me as DA, and now they know they can count on me in Congress to make sure police officers have the assistance they need to keep our communities safe.

I joined a bipartisan group of over 100 representatives calling for restoration of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program and was a cosponsor of the bipartisan COPS Reauthorization Act of 2007 (H.R. 1700), which would authorize a total of \$1.15 billion a year over the next six years for COPS programs nationwide. The COPS program, which puts more police officers on the streets, has proven to reduce violent crime. [Read More](#)

Internet security is also a growing problem and I have cosponsored legislative initiatives to protect children and families from online predators: the Safeguarding America's Families by Enhancing and Reorganizing New and Efficient Technologies Act (The SAFER NET Act, H.R. 1008), and the Keeping the Internet Devoid of Sexual Predators (the KIDS Act of 2007, H.R. 719). [Read More](#)